The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

**October 2014** **Volume 10, Issue 9** **© 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma**

# From the Editor

Tis October already.

Salmon Run 2014 is in the books. The club again manage to get a clean sweep and garner all of the bonus points available through contacts with W7DX, sponsors of the event.. About a dozen operators participated, and thrice than many acted in roles of support and as cheerleaders. A hearty Well Done to all-hands.

It's election time again. The nominating committee has tendered a slate of candidates, and you should soon be receiving your ballots in the mail. Please pay attention to correspondence enclosed with it, to be certain that you meet the mailing deadlines so that your vote counts. See the club minutes in this issue for current candidates for office.

Upcoming events? Well, there is some sort of contest nearly every weekend, so if you want to try your skills on the club radios, just stop by on Saturday. And get a donut as a bonus. Our crew of Saturday Hosts deserve a big hand for keeping the coffee pot filled and the counter full of snacks. And of course, on the last Saturday, a somewhat larger feast is to be had. Your hosts this year are Bruce WE7P, Gary WG7X, Randy WB4SPB and Paul W7PFU. And yours truly does a shift when there are 5 Saturdays in a month.

Kitsap County Amateur Radio Club HAMFEST: Upcoming in October 25, 2014.. It will run from 9AM until 12:00 Noon. The location is at the Silverdale Community Center, 9729 Silverdale Way NW in Silverdale. Admission price is $3 bucks, and kids under 16 get in free. 146.440 simplex will be their talk-in frequency.

That's it for this month. 73 to all.

**In This Month's Issue**


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**RCT Board of Directors Meeting**

**3 September 2014 Minutes**

The 3 September 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Gary McAdams WG7X |
| Vice President | Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ |
| Secretary | Larry Watson KD4VOM |
| Board Member | Bruce Hanson WE7P |
| Board Member | Al Ferguson N7OMS |
| Board Member | Mike Finnie W7MWF |
| Board Member | Mike Elwell W7GHW |
| Board Member | Nick Winter K7MO |

*There were 19 names on the attendance roster which is attached to the original copy of these minutes*

**Quorum:** Yes

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm by President Gary McAdams WG7X.

**Minutes**:

***The minutes of the 6 August 2014 Board Meeting as distributed and coordinated, were approved by Motion, Made Seconded and Passed.***

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**: Bob Hewlett N7NCP is recovering well and was present at the meeting. Greta KF7KSW advised that Charles Rubert KA7GAP is presently in hospice care in University Place, and Jill K7JIL is expecting neck surgery again from their auto accident.

## Secretary's Report:

| | |
|---|---|
| Bank Statements | Newsletters |
| Utility and Phone Bills | QEX Journal |
| Electric Radio | QSL Cards |

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** No Report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership: George K7GRS** reports 324 members and that next Tuesday the annual Salmon Run Pledge Drive mailing will be sent.

**Training**:

**Next Technician Class: October 11/12**

**General Class:** President Gary WG7X is kicking off a General Class session… Please contact him if you can help with the project.

**W7DK at the Fair:** The schedule is filling up and the fair starts soon.

**Please check the W7DK.org** website and get on board, there are several vacancies remaining. Free parking, free fair and an opportunity to promote Amateur radio to thousands of fair visitors.

**Information Technology: –** Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy reported that the approved **IRLP replacement computer** has been configured and ready for use as soon as an interface cable promised by Nick K7MO is available.

Randy also provided a full report indicating the club's IT system performed well during the recent Field Day exercise, and that the HDMI audio issue on the large flat panel display has been resolved.

**HF Operations:** Operational

**HF Room Operations Normal**

**Repeaters: Tim White K7TMW**

Larry KD4VOM raised, and the Board discussed the idea of tying the club's 147.28 and 147.38 repeaters together to increase south Pierce county member access for the net was also suggested.

Nick K7MO is opposed to this project and reports that two additional 440 repeaters would be required, one for the clubhouse 147.28 repeater and one for the Crawford mountain 147.38 repeater.

**Repeater Status:**

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status – Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status – Operational

IRLP (147.28 Repeater) Operational

**Facilities Management:**

**George K7GRS:** has provided a grab bar for the bottom of the staircase to assist the elderly and improve safety. The door needs to be capable of securing and the bar installed.

**Mike W7XTZ** has provided some ant control pesticide to deal with an infestation.

**Property Management:**

**The President WG7X** solicited volunteers to replace Frank Palmer AC7JY who has resigned the Property Manager's job; none appeared.

**Bob K7MXE** suggested that the group operate without a manager, as well as abandoning the practice of putting green numbered ID tags on equipment**.**

**Mike W7MWF** reported that the recent recycle of excess WWII gear and items from the free table brought in some cash.

**Larry KD4VOM pointed out that we need to get the equipment database from Frank, and Mike W7MWF** offered for an interim period to maintain the property database**. Larry KD4VOM** to contact Frank and request the property management files and database data.

**Mike W7MWF** will arrange to change the long and short lockup lock combinations.

**Property Inventory:**

**Larry KD4VOM** reminded the board that we have yet to complete an inventory, and that our current insured equipment list does not reflect many of our high value holdings.

**General Membership Meeting Programs:** Arranged by **Dave W7UUU**

**September - Salmon Run** as requested by Nick Winter and Gary McAdams - Nick is going to have Jim Hadlock K7WA from the Western Washington DX Club to come in and do a full presentation on just in time for the event - A quick intro then turn it over to WW DX Clubs Jim K7WA.

**Workshop Project**

Randy WB7SPB noted that The September 24th Workshop does not yet have a program. In the discussion that followed Dave W7UUU and Gary WG7X discussed some options, including QSLing which could be spread over several sessions.

**Salmon Run:** Its time again for the Salmon Run Western Washington QSO Party.

President GaryWG7X called for volunteer for the Salmon run Operating Team. Gary WG7X, Peter AD7EU, Mike W7MWF and Randy WB4SPB all plan to participate. We need more, please contact Gary if you can help with this fun contest and fund raiser.

**Salmon Run Fund Raiser** Letters and Pledge Forms have been printed and will be in the mail on Tuesday.

**Museum**: **Rich KR7W:** No report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominating Committee appointment:**

Gary WG7X offered to chair this year's Nominating Committee

**RCT Financial Planning: Ken Gibson N7ELF**

**Ken N7ELF:** Presented a financial planning proposal for the club to establish an endowment. Ken proposed the board establish an ad hoc committee to explore the possibilities and benefits of establishing such a fund and reporting their findings to the board for consideration and action.

Ken pointed out that the timing is right for this project as we approach our centennial celebration in 2016.

The proposed plan:
-September: Convene a committee
-September: Gather information
-October: Create recommendations for the Board to consider
-November: Present findings to the Board.

Ken N7ELF accepted the President's appointment as chairman of the Financial Planning committee.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:** None reported

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**RCT 2 Meter Net Operations:**

At last Tuesday night's 2 meter net Anne N7ANN began her regular first Tuesday Net Control duties. Well Done Anne.

Dave and Anne added a new optional feature to the first Tuesday night net, a round table which offers attendees an opportunity to discuss current activities, ask questions and discuss issue of common interest. This too was well received.

**Kudos and Attaboys:**

**RCT Picnic**: Well done to Paul W7PFU and Jan K7HTU for staging this year's picnic, which was well attended despite poor weather, sometimes the clubhouse comes in really handy.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:15

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**RCT General Membership Meeting Notes**
**10 September 2014**

The General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Officers and board members present:

| | |
|---|---|
| Vice President | Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ |
| Secretary | Larry Watson KD4VOM |
| Treasurer | Bob Purdom AD7LJ |
| Board | Mike Finnie W7MWF |
| Board | Bruce Hanson WE7P |
| Board | Al Ferguson N7OMS |
| Board | Nick Winter K7MO |

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 34 names on the attendance roster.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by Vice President Mike W7XTZ

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Guest welcoming and self-introductions were completed.

Visitor Brian K7RUT was warmly welcomed.

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:** Longtime member Charles Rubert KA7GAP has become a Silent Key. Jill Palmer K7JIL is recovering from recent neck surgery.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Newsletters | QSL Cards |
| Utility Bills | Membership Renewals |
| Bank Statements | |
| Newsletters and Journals | |

The Field Day Pig was circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations.
Meeting Refreshments: Anne Ellison N7ANN once again provided an outstanding array refreshments and snacks. Our refreshment stand sports new and less wasteful coffee pots, thanks Dave and Anne

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Nominating Committee:** Randy Myers WB4SPB
Randy provided the Nominating Committee Report: The Committee was comprised of Randy Myers WB4SPB; Bruce Hanson WE 7P and Tim White K7TMW.

Standing for President: Gary McAdams WG7X; Casey Hicks WY7V
Standing for Treasurer: David Andresen W7HTJ
Standing for the two open Board positions: Nick Winter K7MO; Bruce Cranefield WB7EC and Al Ferguson N7OMS.

Nominations from the Floor: Following presentation of the Nominating Committee's report nominations from the floor were opened: There were none
Nominations are open until the end of the October 2014 General Membership Meeting. Candidates must meet the bylaws requirements for current active membership and be willing to serve.

**Membership:** George K7GRS was out of town, but the current membership is running near 328.

**VE Report:** by John AC7WW

The September 9th, 2014 VE testing session at the Radio Club of Tacoma clubhouse had candidates streaming through the front door. Two candidates were expected and seven attended. Five VE's graded 16 elements. Two candidates became Technicians; two candidates passed elements 2 and 3 to join the amateur ranks as Generals. Two candidates advanced to General class. One candidate failed to obtain an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

| | |
|---|---|
| Jan, K7HTU | Jon, AD7AW |
| Rich, KK7VH | Stephen, AD7AB |

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday October 14, 2014.

**Training:** The next Technician's class is scheduled for 11/12 October at the Clubhouse. There is a new question bank and ARRL manual for study.

**HF Station:** Normal Operations

**Facilities:** Bruce Hanson WE7P No significant activity.

**PROGRAM:** Salmon Run; The Washington State QSO Party

Dave Ellison W7UUU introduced Jim Hadlock K7WA of the Western Washington DX Club which sponsors the Salmon Run who joined us to provide an outstanding Salmon Run presentation.
Jim provided a historical background, What Salmon Run is and how it operates today with in depth discussions on why and how to make your experience with Salmon Run and other contests both enjoyable and more effective, discussing search and pounce, and calling CQ techniques together with efficient information exchange techniques.

Jim described the various ways that counties can be activated and some tips on how to make use of the information posted on the Salmon Run website. Logging techniques and issues were explained to help make sure your log is counted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Salmon Run:** The Washington State QSO party sponsored by the Western Washington DX Club is scheduled for September 20 AND 21, 2014 at the Clubhouse.

**Operating Team:** Our operating team is forming. Please contact Gary McAdams WG7X

**Pledge Drive:** A major source of club funding is raised annually through the Salmon Run Pledge Drive which asks for pledges of any amount on a per county or specific criteria basis. More information will be coming by mail soon.

**W7DK at the Fair:** Coordinator Stephen Morton AD7AB has posted the Fair schedule to the W7DK.org website. Please take time to sign up for a tour or two. Parking, and Fair access is provided. New folks are welcome and can be paired with more experienced hams. Great opportunity to promote Amateur Radio to thousands of fairgoers.

There were several reports of the VHF and HF Fair radios not functioning. It appears that workers at the Fair had disturbed our antenna feed lines and perhaps the antennas. Stephen AD7AB is aware and working the problem

**Elections:** We will be electing officers in November. An Election committee will be appointed soon, and Ballots should be in the mail by October 20th.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**RCT Dues:** Al Ferguson N7OMS opened a discussion on Club dues. They have not changed for many years, and our expenses are rising and together with the loss of our Hamfest income it may be time to consider a dues increase. At Al's straw poll, it seemed most were in favor of considering a raise of around $5.00. There was agreement to put the issue on the October Board meeting for consideration, and, if agreed to disseminate the proposal to the general membership for their consideration and feedback.

**Attaboys:**
Paul Matney W7PFU and Jan Gilbertson K7HTU and their team for ta great picnic and to all those who brought their favorite pot luck dishes and desserts.

*Meeting notes continued from previous page*

Anne N7ANN and Dave W7UUU for hosting the first Tuesday night net, and the optional roundtable that followed. Well done…

**TUNING AND TRAFFIC:**

Dave Ellison W7UUU reported recent contacts by email and JT9 QSO with JT65 and JT9 originator Joe Taylor, K1JT

Bruce Hanson WE7P also reported On Wed. 9/10/2014, at 1600 UTC, there was a nice opening to Europe on 15 Meters. In an hour, he had contacts with 9 different countries on JT65, including Malta 9H1SS. That was a new one for him. Nice to see propagation picking up.

**DOOR PRIZES:** Door prizes were won by and our guest speaker Jim Hadlock K7WA and visitor Brian Ramey K7RUT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

## Keeping an eye out....

Reported on the WARTS Net
Ham operator: Bruce, W7EGG, formerly WB7CSF, lives in Chewelah

Some miscreant stole his:

2005, White, GMC pickup truck, crew cab. Inside the truck was his ICOM 7000 and tuner - as well as a pistol. Also had a Tar Heel HF mobile antenna.

Tag number on the truck is: WB7CSH (when stolen).

If you see this truck, or learn of someone trying to sell an ICOM 7000 suspiciously cheap,

Call the State Patrol.

## Amateur Extra License Class

Daniel Stevens KL7WM, has scheduled a FREE Extra Licensing Class at the Tukwila Fire Station 51, 444 Andover Park East, Tukwila, WA 98188. It is on 3 Saturdays, October 25, 2014, November 1, 2014 and November 8,2014 The class will run from 8 AM to 5 PM on all three days.

This class will explain all the questions. There will be several knowledgeable instructors to explain the answers. There are lots of handouts, illustrations, show-and-tell items and videos to lean by. There is a high pass rate for these classes. Many of our members have passed their Extra license from Daniel's classes. This is an easy way to upgrade. The course will go sequentially through the NCVEC 2012 Extra Question Pool. The instructors have some new material to learn from.

Come join the world of Amateur Extra's. The class is FREE, but the test cost $15. To register for the class, sent you name and email to Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, at KL7WM@aol.com

Daniel Stevens KL7WM
Training Coordinator

## Call for QSL Cards

For the November 12, 2014, our Program Chairman Dave W7UUU is planning to present and exhibit and information regarding QSL cards. This session will cover protocols, collecting, design, and using bureaus.

If you have any special or unique QSL cards - whether your own or from another ham, please bring them along and Dave will be tickled to let you show them off to the crowd.

the Radio Club of Tacoma

Your Radio Club
Needs your help

**RCT needs donations....**
**of Amateur Radio Equipment**

# W7DK Members in Action
# Around the clubhouse, or anywhere else

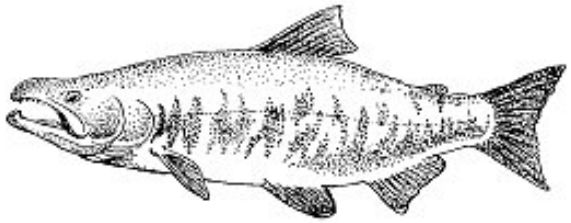
**First Tuesday 2-Meter Net and Roundtable**

**Beginning September 2nd, and each following First Tuesday of each month, Anne K7ANN will be the NCS. Following the 'business' portion of the net, Anne and Dave W7UUU will host a roundtable for those wanting to hang around and visit a bit. The inaugural session held this week was a big success, windy conditions causing repeater noise notwithstanding. Be sure to join us every Tuesday night for the 2 meter net, 147.280 with a PL tone of 103.5**

**And soon to be announced, the inauguration of the monthly "Newbie Net" on 2 Meters. Hosted by Dave, this net will address issues and questions typically encountered by newly-licensed hams, or by old pros who just need something explained.**

In the photo above, Joe KF7PXB gets some practice in on his code oscillator before the 4th Wednesday Workshop on September 24th

Pictured to the left, Al N7OMS lends a hand at an antenna raising party for fellow ham Verna KF7SCB. What a great way to spend a sunny afternoon. And the pizza Verna provided was great. Randy WB4SPB and Mike W7MWF also lent a hand. Keep an ear out now for Verna.



# Salmon Run 2014

**For the 3rd straight year, the W7DK operators successfully achieved a clean sweep of all 39 Washington counties. Hats off to the operators and the support crews who helped garner over 1000 QSOs.**

At the controls:

Andy KE7RTB top left

Randy WB4SPB bottom left

Joe K7ZG above with a crew of consultants and kibitzers

Guest Column

# Twitter: another tool in the ham radio toolbox

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It all starts innocently enough. You get a computer to do your logging, and before you know it, you're working digital modes. Then, you snake an Ethernet cable down to the shack or connect to your wireless router. Pretty soon, you can't do without having a browser window open to one of the DX clusters or ReverseBeacon.Net or QRZ.Com or all three simultaneously.

Well, now's there another Internet service that I can't do without down in the shack: Twitter! I get on Twitter all the time now when I'm in the shack, and I love it. It's truly enhanced my amateur radio experience.

One of the ways it's done this is by bringing me all kinds of interesting technical information. I not only follow @hackaday and @DIYEngineering, and @EDN.Com, but a bunch of hams who are doing fun things. I hate to list some, for fear of leaving some out, but I will give a shout out to @NT7S, @AA7EE, @mightyohm, @caulktel, @LA3ZA. There's even @HiramPMaxim (the P stands for "parody"). If you go to my blog at KB6NU.Com and search for "From my Twitter feed," you'll find links to some of the most interesting Tweets that have found their way to me.

I'm also following a couple of amateur radio retailers. Today, for example, @DXEngineering is offering $55 off the RigExpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer.

I also use it to get information about weather conditions and band conditions. For example, I follow @edvielmetti, who is KD8OQG. He's always tweeting about local severe weather. A Tweet from him gets me to turn on my 2m radio to monitor the local SkyWarn net.

As far as band conditions go, I throw out a Tweet, asking about band conditions, and in seconds, I'll get reports from my followers here in the U.S. and around the world. I try to do my part as well. When I fire up the rig, I'll Tweet out a report of how the bands seem to me.

While all of this is great, it's really all about the people. I currently have more 2,200 followers and I follow more than 900. I would never have met some of these hams if it wasn't for Twitter, and I have since worked several of them on the air after first meeting them on Twitter. Last May, we had a "Tweetup" at the Dayton Hamvention. There were at least 20 of us there. How cool is that?

Twitter isn't for everyone, but I'd encourage you to give it a try. I'm having a lot of fun on Twitter, and I think you will, too. If you do set up a Twitter account, please follow me, @kb6nu. If you mention that you read this column, I'll be sure to follow you back.

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When not Tweeting about his latest amateur radio exploits, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW or teaching ham radio classes. If Twitter isn't your thing, you can still follow him by reading his blog at www.kb6nu.com.

*The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not reflect any official position of the Radio Club of Tacoma, its members or club leadership. - ed.*

## The Olden Daze

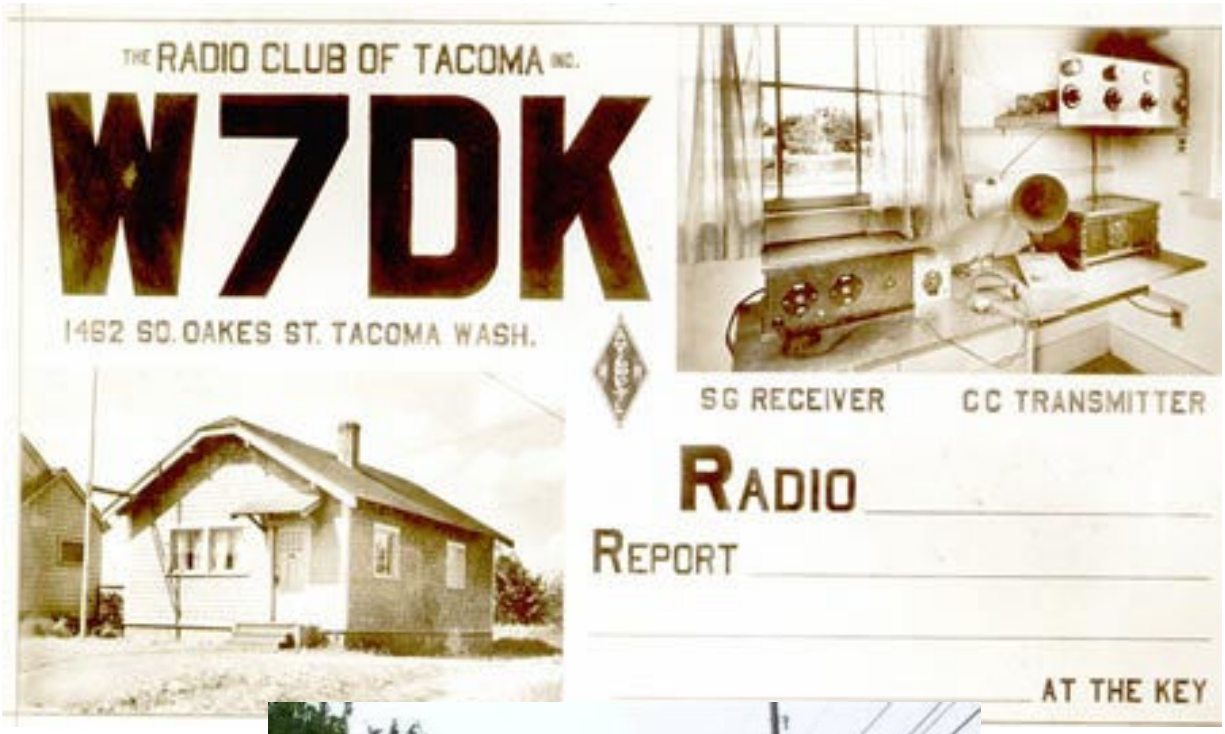
Pictured this month is a RCT W7DK qsl card dated 1938 that shows the original clubhouse at 1462 Oakes Street. .

Pictured below is a current photo of the same house, still standing (without antennas)

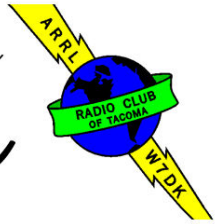
And we whine sometimes about being too crowded. I reckon we should count our blessings.

Operator's Wallpaper

If you have any special, or cool, or unique, or simply beautiful QSL cards in your collection that you'd like to share, please scan (high resolution is preferred) and email to the Bark Editor w7dk-news@earthlink.net. If you can't get them scanned, bring them along to the clubhouse on a Saturday , we'll scan them real quick and give them back to you.



# The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

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## Club Officers

**President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to wg7x @ w7dk.org**
**Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis email to w7xtz @ w7dk.org**
**Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom @ w7dk.org**
**Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to ad7lj @ w7dk.org**

## 5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

**Al Ferguson N7OMS email to n7oms @ w7dk.org**
**Nick Winter K7MO email to k7mo @ w7dk.org**
**Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p @ w7dk.org**
**Mike Elwell W7GHW email to w7ghw@w7dk.org**
**Mike Finnie W7MWF email to w7mwf@w7dk.org**

## Logger's Bark Staff

**Editor "Stop the Presses!!" Mike Finnie, W7MWF email to w7dk-news @ earthlink.net**
**Proofreader Extraordinaire "Don't rely on SpellChecker!" Bob Jamison KE7WPK**
**Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma…**
**Send articles to: w7dk-news @ earthlink.net or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406**

**The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.**

**Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark. If a credit line is included in the article, please seek permission from the original writer also.**

**Membership Info**: **FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.**

## *Radio Club Repeaters*

***Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5***
***Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5***
***Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5***
***North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3***

***Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.***

***The Loggers Bark***
**Radio Club of Tacoma**
**PO Box 11188**
**Tacoma, WA 98411**

***W7DK***

**Proudly celebrating**
**97 years**
**of Amateur Radio Service**
**to**
**Pierce County and the**
**Pacific Northwest**

# Upcoming RCT Events

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Club Meetings**: Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Workshops:** Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

**Board Meeting:** First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline**: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Annual Picnic**: August 30, 2014 2:30 pm 'til ?? At the RCT Clubhouse

**Salmon Run 2014**: September 20-21 @ the RCT Clubhouse .Annual Washington State QSO Party and Club Fundraiser.